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AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

One of the features of the program
at the Lincoln Jubilee exposition at
Chicago was a presentation of a por-
trait of Governor Ferris to him by Wil-
liam Ross Roberts of the Michigan
commission. President Oscar Baker
was unable to be present. The portrait
was made by a Negro.

The Michigan exhibit came in for
the lion's share of observation and all
of the articles shown, from the needle-
work of an eight-year-old girl to nu-
merous quilts made by eighty-year-old
"Aunt Debby" Anderson of Cass coun-
ty, were made ready for inspection.

"Aunt Debby" modestly bears the
distinction of having made more than
3,000 quilts during her life. Particular
attention was called to the needlework
of two blind Negro girls who are stu-
dents of a Lansing school.

The principal exhibits from Michi-
gan came from Cass county, where the
majority of the Negro population, out-
side of the large cities of the state, is
located. The Negro population of Cass
county owns an area of about fifteen
miles, most of which is devoted to
farming, at which industry the Ne-
groes have proved themselves efficient.
One or two of the Negro farmers own
as much as 2,000 acres of land, and
their homes are fitted out with the
latest appliances for the comfort of the
occupants.

While about 3,000 Negroes live in
Cass county, the exhibit was by no
means limited to that area. There
were exhibits from nearly every impor-
tant town and city in the state. The
exhibits were mostly of needlework
and millinery by the women and farm
products raised by the men. An old
darky named Turney Byrd has a new
fangled dump wagon which he devised
and which he is using to good advan-
tage in his home town of Lansing. The
wagon can be emptied all at once or a
quarter or a half load at a time.

While not strictly included in the
Michigan exhibit, the booth of the
United States census bureau was in
charge of a Detroit Negro—Robert A.
Pelham—who has been employed in
that federal department for the last 15
years.

The booth was given over to the
"Story of the Census" from the Ne-
gro's standpoint, and tended to show
that the Negro clerks in the depart-
ment exceed in some respects in ef-
ficiency the white employees.

The story is told by pamphlets ar-
ranged by Mr. Pelham and deals with
the growth in favor of the Negro in
government employ and shows how he
has justified the confidence that Uncle
Sam has placed in his ability. Inciden-
tally Mr. Pelham shows two de-
vices which he invented and which
are now in use in the census bureau—
namely, a paste-supplying device and
a tallying machine—the latter working
on the principle of an adding machine
and used in recording the population.

As far as possible the industrial ex-
hibits at the exposition in Chicago
show the Negro actually at work de-
monstrating his handicraft, wrote Bis-
hop Tallofs. Tuskegee and the oth-
er great Negro schools will be
represented, and Booker T. Washing-
ton and other noted Negro educators
will come to add their efforts to make
the exposition a success.

The Negro's progress has been won-
derful. Fifty years ago, as an army
officer and minister, I saw the for-
bears of the Negro of today walk into
camp, ignorant and unlettered. I
taught the old folks, leading their
children, their first letters that they

Born in 1801 and celebrating her
one hundred and fourteenth birthday
a few weeks ago, Hannah Owens, a
Negress who lives about a quarter of
a mile behind Agency Hill, is still
young enough and spry enough to pre-
side over a court consisting of five
Negro women, the youngest of whom
has reached the age of ninety, says
the Muskogee Phoenix.

The woman was born in Georgia in
1801. She remembers nothing of her
early life, and has no record of her
birth, but she knows that she was
married in 1829, and she remembers
clearly, she says, that her mother
told her on her wedding day she was
twenty-eight years old. She was a
slave before the war to John P. Mad-
dox, she says.

The woman declares that she isn't
glad to have her freedom.
"They made me roll logs and hoe
cotton and plow," she said, "but they
fed me more than I get now and they
gave me a better place to sleep, with
more covers, and I wish I was back
there again."

She did not know of the war in Eu-
rope. She didn't know what Europe is

Reports submitted to the annual
convention of the National Negro Busi-
ness league, Boston, showed that, in
the 15 years since the organization of
the league, the total value of farm
property owned by Negroes in the
United States has increased from
\$177,494,688 to \$492,892,218.

Coming down town this morning you
met a little girl on her way to school.
By the time you got home this even-
ing she will be a grown-up young
woman dressing for a party.

might be able to read the New Testa-
ment. When I realize what the Ne-
gro has done for himself and what
has been done for him since, I am
astounded.

The object of the exposition is a
better understanding of the relation
between the white and the Negro pop-
ulation of the United States.

We have from 2,000,000 to 11,000,000
Negroes—about one-tenth of our total
population. They have developed with
the nation. In every battle, from the
Civil war down, the Negro has fought.
He is found in every walk of our na-
tional life. There can be a true racial
and social feeling only when there is
an end of needless antagonism.

Our aim is to make this exposition
the greatest movement ever created
to bring about a better understanding.
The Negro has a capacity to grow, to
do things and to be one of us. We
aim to show that isolated cases trump-
eted all over the country are only the
muck thrown off the great wheel of
Negro progress.

As a general I helped emancipate
the Negro. In my church life we early
gave Negro presbyters the same right
on the floor of our general council as
whites.

The Confederate officer who fired
one of the first shots at Sumter be-
came a bishop in my church and de-
voted his whole life to the education
and development of the Negro. He was
Bishop E. F. Stevens.

Before the war he was commander
of the South Carolina Military insti-
tute, which turned out more Confed-
erate officers than any other insti-
tution, save possibly one. After the war
he became bishop of all the Negroes of
his state. He was my close friend.
Indeed, it was on my motion that he
became a bishop.

The exposition will include singing
by great choruses of the most noted
jubilee singers in the country. There
will be folk song festivals, historical
tableaux depicting the advance of the
colored people, and other interesting
and instructive features.

The work of the Tuskegee institu-
tion is extending. Mr. Julius Rosen-
wald of Chicago has given this oppor-
tunity. He has reserved a fund to be
expended in school extension among
the Negroes of Alabama. This benefi-
cence is to be distributed through
Tuskegee institute upon the recom-
mendation of its president. Already
schools have been built upon the plan
in 12 counties, including Macon, Rus-
sell, Lee, Chambers, Tallapoosa,
Cocosa, Dallas, Perry, Hale, Montgom-
ery and Lowndes. Each county's
own people must raise \$300 and Mr.
Rosenwald will give an equal amount;
the property is deeded to the state;
the teachers paid by county school
funds and the schools are planned to
cover just such work as I have above
described in the cottage training at
Tuskegee.

Can you see anything but help to
accrue—civilization, better morals,
better service, less need of jails and
penitentiaries? When everything is
done to build a better man or woman,
no matter what the color, it is social
service, kindness, uplift. The Negro
race today has a leader who is a mis-
sionary—the best among them; if they
follow his lessons as I saw them at
Tuskegee, they are entering a new
life, and their white friends, North
and South, are glad to see them im-
prove their character and their skill.
—Mrs. J. S. Reid in Birmingham Age-
Herald.

when she was told about it. Seemingly
all she cares for is hearing news of her
relatives and getting something to eat
each day. The other old women who
live near her all have interesting sto-
ries, but they admit themselves the
inferior of their dean. They are Rose
Caesar, one hundred; Emma Durham,
ninety-two, and Sarah Davis and
Emma Warren, both ninety.

A Boston correspondent of an east-
ern paper remarks that scattered
throughout the South are thousands of
industrious and respected Negroes,
who, while they know nothing at all
about books, and are, indeed, unable
to read or write, nevertheless have ac-
cumulated property and given their
children the opportunity of going to
good schools. This will be widely re-
cognized as good news not only by en-
terprising colored people the country
over, but also by white people who de-
sire to see the colored population in
the United States receive fair treat-
ment.

The water in the Panama canal is
gradually becoming salty.

The rush of people into Vera Cruz,
Mexico, since United States soldiers
evacuated it, has raised the population
from 35,000 to more than 100,000. It
is said that all traces of the cleanup
our troops made have long since dis-
appeared, and that the water and san-
itation problems are acute.

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